



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

April 11, 2008

Thomas Morrill, Superintendent
Auburn School Department
PO Box 800
Auburn, ME 04212-0800

Dear Superintendent Morrill:

Thank you for the revised Alternative Plan that you submitted on behalf of Auburn School Department on March 28, 2008 for Department review for compliance with the school reorganization law, P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX.

I recognize how much time, effort and thoughtful work is required to complete an alternative plan and appreciate the efforts made, to date, by all those involved.

Members of my staff and I have reviewed the submission and offer the comments and notes listed below to assist you in completing the plan. If you make any substantive change(s) to any part of the plan beyond those listed below, please be sure to note those on the Updated Alternative Plan Cover Sheet Checklist, along with notation of those items that have changed per the notes contained in this response.

General Documentation (Submittal Sheet)

- All information submitted as required.

Checklist/Plan Text Items

Items Checked "Complete"

With respect to the items you checked as "complete", please note the following:

** Required Items*

The enclosed document contains actual Essential Programs and Services allocation amounts for FY '09. Please use these figures on your comparison chart and recalculate the variance amount. If you have questions concerning the use of these figures, please email Karla Miller or Suzan Beaudoin at karla.miller@maine.gov or suzan.beaudoin@maine.gov for assistance.

The language in the reorganization law, P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX-36(6)(F) requires that "... the projected expenditures in FY 2008-2009 for system administration, transportation, special education, and facilities and maintenance will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program". Please provide an assurance to that effect in the plan; Department staff will check that assurance against data that was required to be submitted to the MEDMS Financial System in August, 2007.

We will review all items on the checklist again, upon your completion of the plan.

SUBMISSION OF REVISIONS:

Please provide the additional materials to complete your plan by June 13, 2008. Please include:

- Any additional data required
- An updated Submittal Page
- An updated Cover Sheet Checklist
- A copy of this Response from the Commissioner.

I will respond no more than 14 days after the revisions/additional materials are refiled with the Department. As you are the contact person identified on the Submittal Sheet, this response is addressed to you but with the understanding that you will share it with your school administrative unit board members.

Finally, what I am reviewing for approval is a plan (or a submission, if the plan is incomplete) which is by its very nature prospective, with steps yet to be taken or finalized; and any review comments or approval given are in relation to the elements required under P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX but not the legality of all the activities proposed. Thus, I strongly recommend that you have your own legal advisor(s) review the details of any particular transaction proposed in your plan (particularly with respect to the disposition of property, to debt, and to employee contracts/relations) as you proceed, to ensure the legality of the steps you'll be taking to implement the plan. If that review leads to any substantive changes in any parts of your plan, please be sure to submit an amended plan to the Department for our review and our file.

Again, my sincere thanks for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susan A. Gendron". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Susan A. Gendron
Commissioner of Education

Enc.

cc: Gerald Clockedile, Facilitator

Auburn School Department - FY '09

<u>Resident Pupils</u>	<u>K - 8</u>	<u>9 - 12</u>	<u>Total</u>
Apr 2005	2364	1114	3478
Oct 2005	2330	1137	3467
Apr 2006	2307	1092	3399
Oct 2006	2334	1144	3478
Apr 2007	2359	1121	3480
Oct 2007	2434	1129	3563
2006 Avg	2396.5	1125	3521.5
Total Avg	2354.666667	1122.833333	3477.5

	<u>K - 8</u>	<u>9 - 12</u>	<u>Total</u>
Basic	2396.5	1125	3521.5
Declining Enrollment	0	0	0
Adult Ed		13.2	13.2
Equiv Instruction	2	1.875	3.875

Weighted Counts

Disadvantaged:	162.3	76.05	238.35
LEP	60.5	14.5	75

Targeted Funds

K - 2 Pupils	86.15		86.15
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Total Pupils	2707.45	1230.625	3938.075
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System Admin Allowance	204	204	
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System Admin EPS Allocation	\$ 552,319.80	\$ 251,047.50	\$ 803,367.30
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Op & Maint Allowance	935	1111	
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Op & Maint EPS Allocation	\$ 2,531,465.75	\$ 1,367,224.38	\$ 3,898,690.13
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The difference is that we rounded the enrollment up.